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Will Denton Committee Probe the IPS?

Sen. Jeremiah Denton (R.-Ala.), chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Security and Terrorism, has warned that the pro-Marxist Institute for Policy Studies (IPS), in a "systematic approach to strengthen its ties with Congress," is supporting "a network of progressive congressional aides" on Capitol Hill.

In a "Dear Colleague" letter sent to members of Congress, Denton called attention to a recent article in the *New York Times Magazine* on the IPS, entitled, "The Think Tank of the Left." Denton said the IPS is a "research group founded on self-described 'radical'... 'revolutionary'... and 'marxist'... principles."

Denton stressed that in 1978, at the request of 56 members of Congress, the IPS prepared a report on the federal budget that called for "a Socialist housing program," a strategy for organizing for "radical social change" in the educational system, and a "publicly controlled and operated health service."

"The study proposed" he went on, "to offset the cost of these programs by reducing our national defense budget by nearly 50 per cent. To accomplish this, the report suggested—among other things—our disengagement from our commitments in the Middle East."

"Since its inception," Denton said, "IPS has vigorously engaged in anti-American propaganda" and is now operating on a budget of nearly \$2 million a year. The senator noted that the leftist group publishes many books and that its "fellows" write articles for publications such as *The New Yorker*, *Harper's* and *The Nation*, as well as for major newspapers.

His main reason for bringing the article to the attention of his colleagues, he said, "is centered on IPS' systematic approach to strengthen its ties with Congress." He added: "It appears that they plan to accomplish this in part by support of a network of progressive congressional aides described by an IPS publication as committed to 'educate... their bosses about left issues.'"

The network referred to by Denton is described in the article, written by Joshua Muravchik, as the "Progressive House Staff Group, launched by aides to Representatives Conyers and Dellums, two of the members of Congress who have been closest to IPS." Muravchik reported that "An IPS founding fellow, Gar Alperovitz, spoke at the group's first forum, which attracted 100 congressional aides."

The Muravchik piece, published two days after the Senate Subcommittee on Security and Terrorism opened hearings on terrorism and disinformation, and the Denton letter have created quite a stir in left-wing circles. Leftists fear that the IPS and its networks will become a subject of investigation by the new subcommittee.

The fear is not diminished by the fact that the Heritage Foundation study, "Mandate for Leadership," considered by some the "bible" of the new Administration, contained a section on the intelligence community, written by Dr. Samuel T. Francis, that described IPS as being "among the organized internal groups that could become internal security problems...." Francis included IPS in "a range of radical and New Left groups, some of whose members and leaders have expressed sympathy for North Vietnam and Cuba and who have had influence on federal policymaking in recent years...." Francis is now a legislative aide on national security to Sen. John East (R.-N.C.), a member of the Denton subcommittee.

Muravchik notes that IPS and its associates have praised not only North Vietnam and Cuba, but North Korea, Pol Pot, the PLO, and other Communist-backed terrorist movements.

When asked for comment on the Denton letter, IPS co-founder Richard J. Barnet told HUMAN EVENTS, "I don't think the letter is worthy of response. The only fact in it that is correct is that we do write for the publications mentioned. Everything else in it is either false or so taken out of context and distorted as to convey a completely false impression of who we are and what we do."

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